

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) today hosted a meeting with the members of the Bay Defense Alliance and General Norton A. Schwartz, Air Force Chief of Staff, in Washington, D.C., to discuss the operational future of Tyndall Air Force Base and the viability of housing additional fighter aircraft on the base.

“This morning, I received assurances from the Air Force that Tyndall will continue to be the preeminent training ground for F-22 pilots and will maintain its current squadron,” said Congressman Boyd. “This decision will help preserve the operational future of Tyndall and allow us to continue promoting future missions at the base.”

Today’s meeting was one in a year-long series of conversations with the Air Force. In June, General Schwartz and Michael Donley, the Secretary of the Air Force, visited Tyndall to see firsthand the vital role Tyndall plays in our national security efforts and to witness the tremendous support the base receives from the Bay County community.

Working with the Bay Defense Alliance, Congressman Boyd has taken a number of steps to ensure that Tyndall will continue making strong and valuable contributions to the nation’s security efforts. In addition to the numerous meetings over the past year, Congressman Boyd included a provision in the House Defense Appropriations Bill that would delay the proposed retirement of the F-15s assigned to the base until after the Air Force has provided Congress with detailed reports on the long-term effects of the drawdown.

“Our discussions today with the Air Force represent a turning point in the evolving mission of Tyndall Air Force Base,” said Tom Neubauer, President of the Bay Defense Alliance. “Congressman Boyd’s relentless pursuit of building a productive, valuable relationship with General Schwartz is what led to this achievement. We will continue working closely with Congressman Boyd and coordinating the actions of the Bay Defense Alliance with his office to attain maximum benefit for the Bay County community.”

Congressman Boyd concluded, “I am extremely proud of the multi-pronged efforts we’ve taken to preserve Tyndall’s operational future. My friends with the Bay Defense Alliance and I will continue working to bolster Tyndall’s capabilities in every way possible so that Tyndall can continue to be a source of pride for Bay County residents.”

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